

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, the substitute specification and the drawings are amended. Claims 8-21 are pending in the application, with claims 8 and 14 being independent.

Claims 8, 9, 12-15 and 18-21 are generic to all three species. Claims 10 and 16 read on the elected species, as well as species 3 (Figs. 4 and 4a). Claims 11 and 17 read on the elected species. Thus, all pending claims read on the elected species.

Objections to the Drawings

The newly submitted drawings add arrows “f” and “w” to show the filtering flow and the washing flow, respectively, as clearly described in the paragraph spanning pages 8-9 of the substitute specification and on page 9 of the originally filed specification. The additions of these arrows are fully supported by the present application, particularly since the original application would be interpreted in this manner by one skilled in this art.

The newly submitted drawings also add arrowheads for the lead lines for “16” to indicate more clearly that frame parts comprise sets of filtrate plates 26 and filter frames 18 for the embodiments of FIGS. 2, 2a and 2b, or comprise sets of filtrate plates 26, filter frames 28 and membrane plates 44 for the embodiments for FIGS. 3.3a, 4 and 4a.

Further, cross section lines are added to Figs. 2a, 3a and 4a for the cross-sectional views of Figs. 2 and 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, respectively, as described in the amendment of the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the substitute specification. The cross section of Fig. 2 extends through an upper channel 36 and a lower channel 38 since those two channels are shown in Fig. 2. The cross section of Fig. 2b extends through channel 40 since Fig. 2b shows that channel. The cross section for Fig. 3 extends through an upper channel 36 and a lower channel

38, because those channels are shown in Fig. 3. Similarly, the cross section for Fig. 4 extends through the upper channel 36 and the lower channel 38 since such channels are shown in Fig. 4. Such cross sections would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art upon studying the drawings and the descriptive portion of the specification of this application.

Thus, these amended drawings comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), and adequately illustrate the claimed subject matter.

Amendment to Substitute Specification

The Brief Description of the Drawings section spanning pages 6-7 of the substitute specification is revised as noted above.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 8-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being based on an insufficient disclosure allegedly since the originally filed disclosure allegedly remains a “mystery”. In addition to questioning of the cross sections (addressed above), the only other portion questioned is how pressurized fluid is delivered to or drained from pressure spaces 50 via pressure channels 52. Regarding delivery and draining of pressurized fluid into spaces 50 via pressure channels 52, the pressure spaces 50 and the pressure channels 52 are connected in the same manner as the other channels to their respective spaces. Such connection is shown, for example, in Fig. 3 by the connection of channel 36 to space 30. Since such connection would be readily apparent to one skilled in the art based on the original disclosure (including the entire specification and drawings), the disclosure of the pressure spaces 50 and the channels 52 is adequate to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the invention.

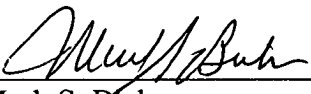
Specifically, one skilled in this art would readily recognize that pressure spaces 50 are connected to pressure channels 50 by connecting passages as shown, for example, in Fig. 4a. These connecting passages structurally correspond to those connecting passages provided for input channels 36 and output channels 38, 40 to connect channels 36, 38, 40 to spaces 30. Since the connections to spaces 30 are admittedly adequately disclosed, the connections of spaces 50 to channels 52 are also adequately disclosed to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the claimed invention.

Further, such rejection would at best only apply to claims 10-11 and 16-17 since only those claims recite the compression step or structure. The remaining claims are not subject to this objection.

No other objections to the specification and drawings are raised in the Office Action.

Thus, the specification, drawings and claims 8-21 comply with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,


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